

APRIL 30, 1965

The night the Russians burst into our room

by Mrs. BROOKE

From PETER WORTHINGTON,

CPYRGHT

MOSCOW, Thursday

THE 25-year-old wife of Gerald Brooke, the British teacher held in Moscow's Lubyanka Prison, talked today about her all-night "grilling" by Soviet security police.

Since the police released her on Monday, Mrs. Barbara Brooke has pleaded for permission to visit her husband. She has been told her request will be considered "early in May."

Mrs. Brooke, a slim, bespectacled librarian, was preparing for her flight back to London today when I talked to her at the Moscow home of the British Consul, Miss Agnes Wood.

'TOOK US AWAY'

She wept as she told how she and her 26-year-old husband — accused of "subversive activities" — were arrested on Sunday.

Mr. Brooke, a fluent Russian speaker leading a party of students from London, was with his wife in the home of Russian friends.

Said Mrs. Brooke: "Quite late at night, three men burst into the apartment.

"They didn't say anything. They just seized my husband and took him away. Then they took me away."

Mrs. Brooke, who does not speak Russian, told me she could not understand anything. I didn't know what to

think."

Then she talked of the all-night questioning session.

"The three Russians brought me to a building—I have no idea where it was. They took me to a room and fired question after question at me through an interpreter.

"I was tired, but I wasn't allowed to rest. The men were polite, but insistent."

Mrs. Brooke was freed at about 7.30 on Monday morning.

TOLD NOTHING

"I still wasn't told anything," she said. "They didn't say I could leave Moscow — or that I should stay.

"They just let me go, and wouldn't answer any questions about my husband."

The Brookes live in Highwood Avenue, Finchley. Mr. Brooke teaches Russian at Holborn College of Law, Languages and Commerce.

The 30 British students who went with him on the tour are all learning Russian.

So far the British Embassy has been unable to find any reason for Mr. Brooke being held.

But it is believed that he is alleged to have spread anti-Soviet propaganda."

Russian sources suggest that Mr. Brooke was passing

anti-Soviet literature to a Russian. There is talk of a photograph album which he might have been bringing to someone in Moscow.

Mr. Brooke studied at Moscow University — on a British Council grant — in 1959-60.

Much of his knowledge of Russian was gained at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, attached to London University.

After a three-year course, he obtained a BA honours degree in Russian.

'IN DARK'

The students on tour with Mr. Brooke are due back in London on Sunday.

At their Moscow hotel one of them, Paul Harvey, said they were "in the dark" about Mr. Brooke's arrest.

"The Russians have not interfered with us in any way," said Mr. Harvey. "They have been most helpful in seeing that our departure is not held up."

CPYRGHT